the Executive Council of the Dacca University from 1947 to 1950. He was the President of the then Bharatiya Jan Sang for a number of years. A person committed to simple living and high thinkings, Shri Ghosh was a forceful speaker and made a mark in this House during his short term of two years from 1952 to 1954.

Shri Tilok Gogoi, as the Members may be aware, died yesterday at a London hospital where he had gone for treatment of cancer. None could imagine that such a vigorous person enjoying enviable health would fall a prey to this dreaded affliction.

Shri Tilok Gogoi was born in April, 1923 at Village Selenghat in District Sibsagar of Assam and graduated from the Cotton College, Gauhati. A veteran freedom fighter, Shri Gogoi took active part in the freedom struggle and while a student of class X, be joined the 'Quit India Movement' and was imprisoned from November, 1942 to May, 1945. A dedicated social worker, Shri Gogoi was a Member of the Assam Legislative Assembly from 1962 to 1972. He was a Member of the Rajya Sabha from July, 1977 to April, 1980. Shri Gogoi was elected to the Assam State Legislative Assembly in 1983 for the third time and was inducted to the State Council of Ministers.

In the death of Shri Gogoi the country has lost a true patriot.

We deeply mourn the passing away of Shri Sitaram Jaipuria; Shri Pitamber Das; Shri Devaprasad Ghosh and Shri Tilok Gogoi.

I request Members to rise in their places anad observe a minute's silence as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed..

(Hon. Members then stood in silence for one minute.)

REFERENCE TO THE VICTIMS OF THE AIR-INDIA PLANE CRASH

MR. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Members are aware that a great tragedy befell the nation on the 23rd June, 1985 when an Air-India Plane, "Kanishka" with 329 passengers abroad crashed of the Irish coast into the Atlantic while on its flight from Toronto to Bombay. The loss of so many lives has stunned not only our country but also the whole world. Entire families returning to their motherland have wiped out by the cruel hand of destiny. Whatever be the cause of the accidents, the loss suffered by the kith and kin of the deceased is irreparable. Our hearts go out in sympathy for the bereaved and we offer our heartfelt condolences.

I request the honourable Members to rise in their places and observe a minute silence as a mark of respect to the victims of the tragedy.

(Hon. Members then stood in silence for one minute).

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we shall take up questions. Question No. 1 Yes. Mr. Biswa Goswami.

Question No. 1, Yes. Mr. Biswa Goswami. swami

Recommendations made by the Abid Hussain Committee

*1. SHRI BISWA GOSWAMI:
DR. SHANTI G. PATIL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the main recommendations of the Abid Hussain Committee which are under Government's consideration; and

(b) what are the details of the proposed trade policy?

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Biswa Goswami.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b) The report and the recommendations of the Committee on Trade Policies are under consideration of the Government and it is expected that copies of the report will be placed in the Parliament library during the current session.

SHRI BISWA GOSWAMI: Sir, in reply to a question in the Lok Sabha, Unstarred Question No. 10200, on the 17th May 1985, the Government had said that the Report was under consideration. I want to know from the honourable Minister how long it will take to consider finally this Report and when the Report will be made known to the public. I also want to know from the honourable Minister whether any major change in the trade policy has been suggested in this Report.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: Sir, the Report was submitted to the Committee of Secretaries and they met on the 30th March and the 5th June 1985 and they have finalised the consideration and their recommendations on it. It has now been referred to a Group of Ministers and I am sure that the Group of Ministers will be finalising their recommendations within August and hopefully, we will be able to take a final decision thereon.

With regard to the question as to when it will be made known to the public, even during this session, as soon as it is plaed in the Parliament Library, it will be made public and the honourable Members will be knowing about it.

With regard to the question as to what recommendations have been included, which were there in the Abid Hussain Committee Report, one is on the long-term policy which was there in the Abid Hussain Committee Report. We have now the export-import policy for three years and that has been incorporated. Certain reliefs in Income-Tax on profits on exports were recommended and they have been incorporated in the Budget proposals and also in the Finance Bill. Simplification of the procedures was recommended. Automatic permissible category of import licences has been abolished. Also, for the manufacturers/importers, a Prass Book system has been adopted. It was also a recommendation that wherever there are very small items in quantity which are canalised, it can be done away with. This suggestion has been accepted. At the same time, one major recommendation was that the manufacturer should not also be the recanalising agency. So that has also been implemented. Canalisation of steel has been transferred to the MMTC.

SHRI BISWA GOSWAMI: I want to know from the hon. Minister whether further liberalisation of imports of technology and on caiptal goods will meet the domestic needs in terms of efficiency, productivity and growth.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: One of the recommendations of the Abid Hussain Committee report on technology is not only import of technology but absorption of technology and it has recommended for growth and increasing the production days and liberalised approach to technology to all. I think it is the correct decision and the Government is favourably inclined towards it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Shanti Patel.

DR. SHANTI G. PATEL: Sir, it is a very important committee and its recommendations are going to have an important bearing on the export-import policy of the Government as stated by the hon. Minister. Some recommendations have been considered and certain decisions have been taken thereon. Still there are several important recommndations which are under consideration and a lot of kite-flying is going on and it is expected some radical changes would also be made. In this situation it is desirable that the report is released immediately so as to enable a proper and full discussion by all concerned, including Members of Parliament, before the Government takes final decisions on its recommendations. May I, therefore, know from the hon. Minister, will you not consider

it advisable to release the report and the recommendations immediately and to take decisions later on?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: I am all in favour of releasing it at the earliest. There is only one technical thing that we have got the English copy ready and can place it right tomorrow but we have to get the Hindi translation and perhaps that causes the problem in placing it early. As soon as the Hindi translation is ready, we will place it that very day.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Instead of placing the Report on the Table, if you can make the copies available for Members of Parliament, I think that would be helpful. But the question is, has the Committee looked into the question of induction of foreign technology and the cost of inputs which will be necessary to feed that technology and in that case what will be the additional items which the Abid Hussain Committee has recommended for import liberalisation connected with advanced technology?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: Well, I will make the copies available to hon. Members, and certainly we want the opinion of the hon. Members on the suggestions in this important document. Regarding the cost of inputs, the Abid Hussain Committee has not gone into all such details and cost inputs. The suggestions on technology mainly are that where we can buy foreign technology by paying lump sum, we should be ready to buy it. Where we can get it straightway, we should try to get that. Then, if it is by equity participation, that will be the second step to buy it through equity participation if we can get it. And, of course, where we have to get it in the form of capital goods and in critical areas where there are critical gaps in our production or where it is necessary for foreign exchange earning and promotion of exports, in those areas certainly we should have this technology. But the main emphasis is that it should not be repetitive but it should be absorbed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

Setting up of new Steel Plants

*2. SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM:

DR. SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPATRA:*

Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state the present position of the steel plants that are to be set up at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh, Vijayanagar in Karnataka and Daitari in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The Steel Plant at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh is under construction. An annexure showing the status of construction of the Plant as on the 30th June, 1985 is attached.

A Detailed Project Report for the first phase of the Vijayanagar Steel Plant has been received. The commencement of work on the Project will depend upon the investment decision which has not yet been taken. However, certain preparatory/preliminary works such as land acquisition, topographical survey, geophysical investigations, soil investigations etc. have been undertaken.

As regards Daitari Steel Plant in Orissa, Feasibility Report for the first phase of the plant has been received by the Project Authorities. The likely schedule of setting up of the plant will depend upon the investment decision which has not yet been taken. The notification for the acquisition of land has been issued by the State Government. Soil investigations have been completed—as also studies on the availability of water. Some other studies on provision of infrastructure facilities for the proposed plant are under way.

---

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. Shyam Sundar Mohapatra.